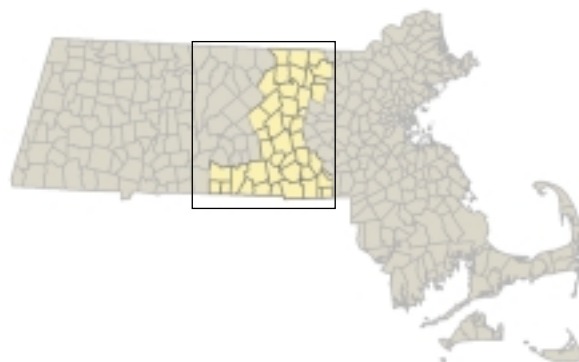


T H E CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS W A T E R S H E D S

The Central Massachusetts Watershed Region is the source of three unique rivers – the Nashua, Blackstone, and the French/Quinebaug (The Greater Thames). All three rivers have emerged from their industrial past with improved water quality and increased interest in using the river corridors for outdoor recreation and tourism.

Over the past thirty years, the Nashua River Watershed Association (NRWA) has worked with government agencies, local communities, and land trusts to assemble a 9,000-acre corridor of protected land along the Nashua, while The Blackstone Valley has been designated one of 14 National Heritage Corridors in the nation. The French/Quinebaug Valley in Massachusetts recently was also designated as a National Corridor. These two rivers form the headwaters to the Thames River, which is largely undeveloped right down to its mouth in Long Island Sound – making it the “last green valley” in the Washington D.C. to Boston urban corridor. Satellite photos taken at night highlight this valley as the last unlighted area along this urban corridor.

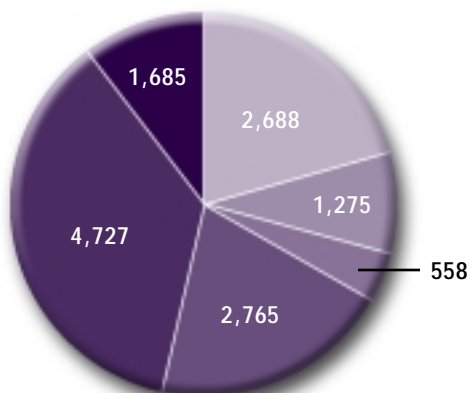
Over the next several years, EOEA agencies will aggressively work with their non-profit partners to conserve several large wildlife, trail, and river corridors and water supply drainages



within the region. In the center of the region, MDC, DEM, and DFWELE will work to link the 12,000-acre Wachusett and 23,000-acre Ware River holdings. In the southern region, EOEA will strive to link Brimfield State Park and Norcross’ Tupper Hill Sanctuary, to expand the Douglas and Sutton State Forests, and to enhance the Blackstone River corridor. In the northern part of the region, agencies will work to link existing protected land within the 45,000 acre Squannassit Regional Preserve and work with local land trusts and landowners to protect open space corridors across the apple country of the middle Nashua River valley.

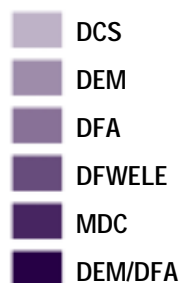
Central Massachusetts Land Protection Summary

A C R E S



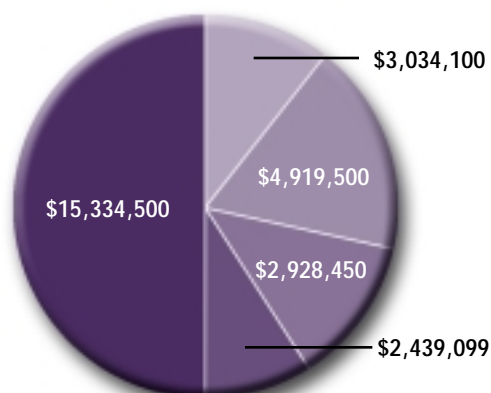
Total Acres: 13,698

A G E N C Y

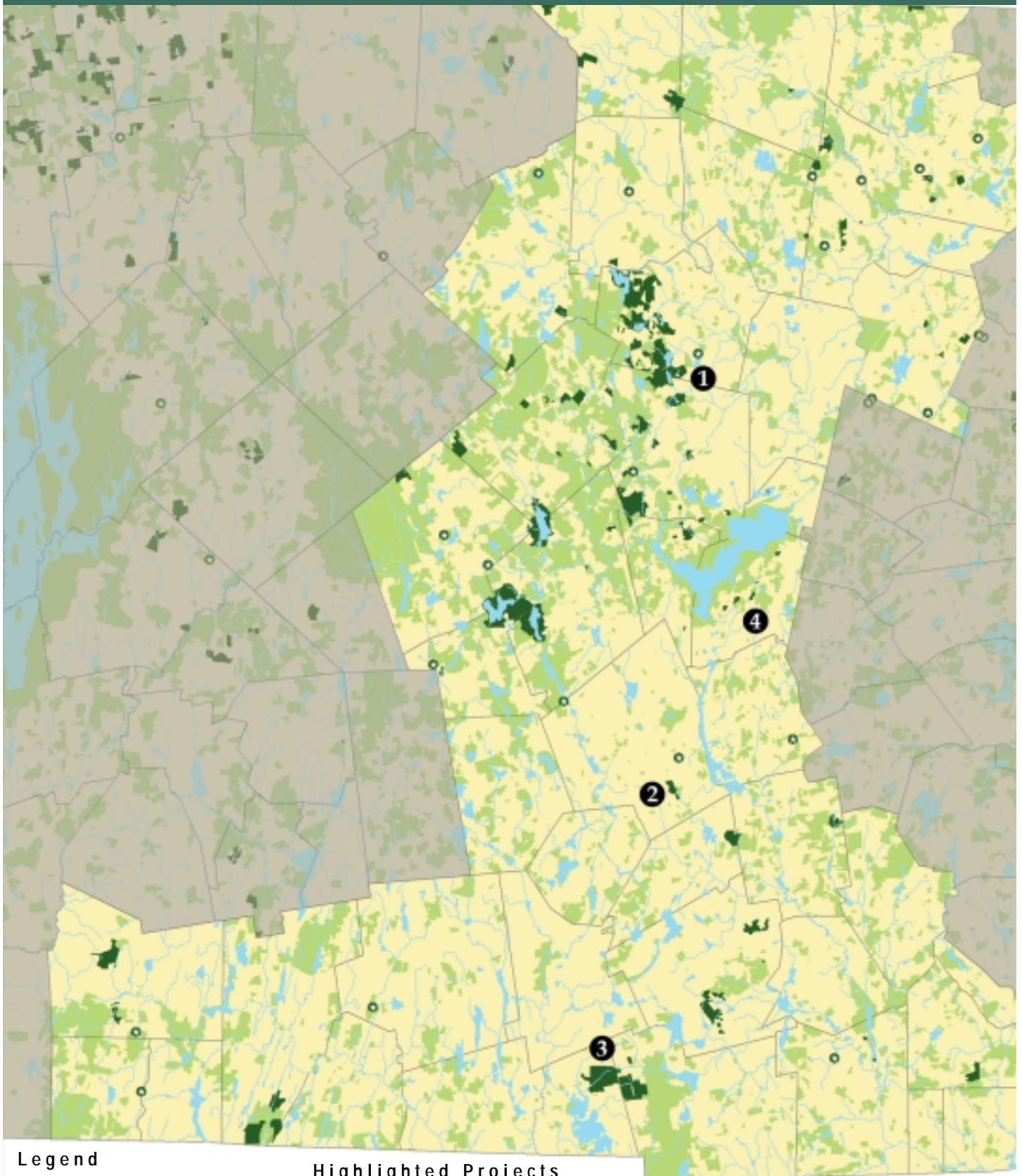


Total Projects: 133

S T A T E F U N D S



Total Funds: \$28,655,649



Legend

- Conservation Restrictions (15-100 acres)
 - Newly Protected Open Space (In Fee or CR)
 - Previously Protected Open Space
- 0 2 4 6 8 Miles

Highlighted Projects

- 1 Sholan Farms
- 2 Broad Meadow Brook Savannah
- 3 Schwartz
- 4 Wachusett Watershed Protection



SHOLAN FARMS

DEM/DFA • Leominster • 1,685 acres • APR/CR
\$1,583,000

In 2001, DEM and DFA contributed \$1.58 million to help the City of Leominster protect Sholan Farms, the last remaining apple orchard in Leominster, which is known as “the birthplace of Johnny Appleseed.” In addition, the farm is one of the last large undeveloped areas in the city. DEM and DFA acquired a joint APR/CR on the 168-acre property, which consists of a 45-acre apple orchard containing 10,000 apple trees, and 120 acres of unmanaged woodland. DFA contributed \$500,000 and DEM contributed \$1,083,000 to the project.

In 2000, the absentee owners of the Sholan Farms orchard received preliminary approval for a 178-lot subdivision. To save the orchard from development, the city began a fundraising effort and partnered with the state and non-profit organizations to purchase the Sholan Farms property for \$4.75 million. TTOR and the Leominster Land Trust each contributed \$250,000 to the project. Sholan Farms is now being operated by the city as a pick-your-own orchard.

The City of Leominster has also agreed to donate a CR to DEM on an additional 1,518 acres of city watershed land and will allow public access on those parcels. This CR will assure the permanent protection of this important holding, which links to nearly 20,000 acres of protected land managed by the MDC at Wachusett Reservoir and by DEM at Leominster State Forest and Mt. Wachusett Reservation.





BROAD MEADOW BROOK SAVANNAH

DCS • Worcester • 103 acres • Grant

\$250,000 DCS + \$156,000 LWCF, \$700,000 total project cost

In 2001, staff from the City of Worcester's Conservation Commission worked closely with the Greater Worcester Land Trust and staff at Massachusetts Audubon Society's Broad Brook Sanctuary in Worcester on a unique acquisition of 103 acres of undeveloped land adjacent to the Broad Brook Sanctuary. The City of Worcester purchased the property from Catholic Charities for \$700,000. The City of Worcester received a \$250,000 Self-Help grant from DCS and an additional \$156,000 from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Program to help pay for the purchase.

The Catholic Charities property was an outstanding candidate for state and federal funding for many reasons. The Broad Meadow Brook Savannah was listed as a high priority in the city's "What's Left" report identifying undeveloped parcels still remaining in Worcester. The Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program had identified this property as a significant natural heritage resource. The Oak Savannah found on this property, characterized by low grasses and blueberries, provides necessary habitat for migratory birds and butterflies, as well as the native New England birds and animals generally found in more rural areas.

This project was also a unique opportunity to add on to a "greenway hub" in the state's second largest city. This urban conservation acquisition enlarged an existing 270-acre block of legally protected open space, creating the largest urban sanctuary in Worcester.

SCHWARTZ

DFWELE • Webster, Douglas • 708 acres • Fee

\$1,205,000

The Schwartz property was acquired by DFWELE in July of 2001. The property represents a very large undeveloped tract of land in a part of Worcester County where open space is rapidly being consumed by residential development. The Schwartz property abuts DEM's 5,000 acre Douglas State Forest, which itself abuts the 2,300 acre Buck Hill wildlife area in Rhode Island. The Town of Douglas had been considering building an industrial park on approximately 150 acres of the Schwartz parcel. Past efforts to develop the property into a golf course and housing for the elderly were defeated, but it would have been only a matter of time before this large parcel was developed.

The Schwartz acquisition is an important step in keeping large tracts of forest unfragmented by development. Worcester County's 600,000 acres of forestland are an important resource for wildlife, water supply, and the region's economy. The county's forested land has declined by an alarming 8% over the past 12 years – the largest decline in the state. The Schwartz tract includes a diversity of forest species and has a high potential to contain several vernal pools, which often provide habitat for a variety of rare species of salamanders and turtles. DFWELE and DEM are planning further acquisitions to add to this large protected block of forest land.





WACHUSETT WATERSHED PROTECTION PROPERTIES

MDC • Cronin, Cournoyer, and Giobellina Tracts
Boylston, Paxton, Rutland, West Boylston
Fee and CR • 441 acres • \$3,590,000

The Wachusett Reservoir is part of the MDC's water supply system delivering high quality water to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority and its 2.4 million consumers. Over the past 15 years, the percentage of MDC protected land within the 70 square mile watershed that drains to the reservoir has increased from 7% to over 25%. Protected lands, including MDC land and other open space protected by state, municipal, and non-profit conservation organizations, now make up more than 50% of the reservoir's watershed. MDC carefully maps the most water-rich land for acquisition planning, so that development will not affect the reservoir in the future. The Cronin, Cournoyer, and Giobellina tracts are examples of recent MDC acquisitions in the Wachusett watershed.

The Cronin acquisition includes a branch of French Brook, the largest tributary flowing to the Wachusett Reservoir's south shore. Upland and wetland forests flank the brook as it winds through ledges before joining the main stem of this important water supply stream. The Cronins chose to sell the land for watershed/conservation purposes while continuing to live in their home on an adjoining lot. Their property met several MDC watershed land acquisition criteria, including abundant frontage on reservoir tributaries and close proximity to the reservoir and protected open space.

The Lawrence Cournoyer tract is perched just beyond the western shoreline of Pine Hill Reservoir, one of the City of Worcester's surface water supplies, which also drains over the reservoir's dam down to the Wachusett Reservoir. The city and the MDC, representing the state's two largest metropolitan areas, recognized a mutual benefit in protecting one of the last large watershed landholdings from inappropriate development. Governor Jane Swift's visit to the site capped an agreement between the MDC and the city that resulted in a CR granted to the MDC on 2,800 acres of city watershed land in exchange for the MDC's purchase of development rights on the Cournoyer land. The city welcomed the opportunity to add an additional layer of permanent protection from development on their watershed lands.

The Cournoyer land includes Bond Hill, with sweeping views from a hayfield summit, streams, and wetlands which drain to Pine Hill Reservoir, wooded slopes, and rare wildlife habitat along Turkey Brook. Mr. Cournoyer will continue to invite outdoor enthusiasts and sportsmen to enjoy his land, which has been long favored by locals. The property abuts city watershed land, adding significantly to the natural land buffer around Pine Hill Reservoir.

The Giobellina dairy farm in West Boylston contains thousands of feet of streams and many acres of wetlands that drain to the Wachusett Reservoir. With this acquisition, the MDC expects to see continued improvement to the water quality of this important tributary.

